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world in general and to Ireland in particular, and that every man who had a grudge against the British Empire was consequently bound to annihilate the House of Lords. These engaging themes were illustrated by Mr. O'Connor with a profuse variety of his most characteristic eloquence." (II, 386.)

The work as a whole is controversial rather than impartial, but Mr. O'Donnell presents a strong case. He is a fearless and courageous pleader and a most lucid expositor. His book is interesting and readable from the first line to the last. The style is engaging and incisive and at times is enlivened by a subtle wit. Quotations from speeches, letters, and other documents, scattered throughout the volumes constitute a valuable feature of the work. While Mr. O'Donnell has probably not spoken the final word on the much discussed "Irish Problem," the future historian of this interesting movement will consult his volumes with profit.

T. F. MORAN.

A Century of Empire. BY SIR HERBERT MAXWELL. Volume ii, (1833-1868), pp. xiii 364. Octavo. Longmans. 1910.

The first of the three volumes of this work was reviewed in an earlier number of the *Review* and the second volume is now before us. Its characteristics are much the same as the earlier volume. There is the same vivacity of style, the same frank identification of the writer with the conservatives, the same controversy with Sir Spencer Walpole, the same emphasis on political and military features of history, the same reference to contemporary conditions. In the early part of the volume, the Duke of Wellington is the hero still, while Brougham arouses the author's detestation and Russell his dislike. Palmerston is treated generously. Disraeli and Gladstone are mistrusted. The portraits of prominent characters continue to constitute an interesting feature of the book, though one is inclined to ask why a likeness of General John Nicholson is one of the seven shown us. Maxwell is frankly insular in his sources of information. He may occasionally quote a French authority, but never one in any other language and, among his English sources, he goes but seldom to public documents. Good use is made of the Duke of Wellington's papers and of Queen Victoria's letters and the important influence of Prince Albert is fully realized. The development of Australia and New Zealand is overlooked. A good and

adequate account is given of the growth of the Indian empire. The term United States does not occur in the index, but the account of the relations of Great Britain and the American government during the Civil War is full—accurate, and remarkably unprejudiced. The importance is clearly shown of Prince Albert's "prudent counsel" and of Lord Lyons "tactful serenity" in preserving friendliness between the two countries at the time of the Trent episode. There is a remarkable willingness to admit that the English government was not always right in its foreign relations and the annexations of territory in India sometimes meets censure, as made on too slight grounds. In our brief space, we may only touch on some other features of the book, such as the succinct and clear account of the two great religious events of the middle of the century; the Oxford movement and the Scottish disruption, or, in another field, of the Crimean War. The story of the Canadian troubles in the thirties is well told. Epigram sometimes appears, as when we are told that "Littleton was disposed of by that expedient so dear to embarrassed premiers—a peerage." We may doubt whether the conservative party began as early as Maxwell thinks to assume a favorable attitude toward rational reforms and whether that attitude has been maintained as consistently as the work asserts. A curious sentence on page 104 speaks of "Christians being prone to forget the charter and shibboleth bequeathed to them by their Founder," but such infelicities are rarely found. The concluding volume will be awaited with pleasant expectation and the work may be recommended as giving a good birdseye view of English history in the nineteenth century.

The Essentials of Self-Government. By ELLIS T. POWELL. (London: Longmans, Green and Company, 1909. Pp. vii, 309.)

The purpose of this elaborate essay is to study the mechanism of Parliamentary elections and to suggest improvements in its present condition. It is the belief of the author that the electoral mechanism is a potent factor in self-government and that its efficiency may be greatly increased by certain practical modifications. He discusses such subjects as registration of voters, distribution of seats, candidates and candidatures, election agents, election expenses, corrupt practices, illegal practices, the act and mode of voting, election petitions, and the dismissal of members, and shows in detail how the procedure or the machinery in each case might be improved. For example, he would place